

Senate, March 30, 1998. The Committee on Planning and Development reported through SEN. COLEMAN, 2nd DIST., Chairman of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEADLINE FOR THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Subsection (a) of section 12-170f of the
2 general statutes is repealed and the following is
3 substituted in lieu thereof:

4 (a) Any renter, believing himself entitled to
5 a grant under section 12-170d for any calendar
6 year, shall make application to the assessor or
7 assessors of the municipality in which he resides
8 or the duly authorized agents of such assessor or
9 assessors for such grant [on or after May
10 fifteenth and not later than September fifteenth
11 of] each year with respect to such grant for the
12 calendar year preceding each such year, on a form
13 prescribed and furnished by the Secretary of the
14 Office of Policy and Management to the local
15 assessor or assessors. [In the case of extenuating
16 circumstance of the renter's illness or
17 incapacitation, evidenced by a physician's
18 certificate to that effect the renter may make
19 application to the Secretary of the Office of
20 Policy and Management prior to December fifteenth
21 of the claim year for extension of the application
22 period.] A renter making such application shall

23 present to such assessor, assessors or agents, in
24 substantiation of his application, a copy of his
25 federal income tax return, and if not required to
26 file a federal income tax return, such other
27 evidence of qualifying income, receipts for money
28 received, or cancelled checks, or copies thereof,
29 and any other evidence the assessor, assessors or
30 such agent may require. When the assessor,
31 assessors or agents is or are satisfied that the
32 applying renter is entitled to a grant, such
33 assessor or assessors or agents shall issue a
34 certificate of grant, in triplicate, in such form
35 as the Secretary of the Office of Policy and
36 Management may prescribe and supply showing the
37 amount of the grant due. The assessor or assessors
38 shall forward the original copy and attached
39 application to the Secretary of the Office of
40 Policy and Management not later than the last day
41 of the month following the month in which the
42 renter has made application. On or after December
43 1, 1989, any municipality which neglects to
44 transmit to the Secretary of the Office of Policy
45 and Management the claim and supporting
46 applications as required by this section shall
47 forfeit two hundred fifty dollars to the state,
48 provided said secretary may waive such forfeiture
49 in accordance with procedures and standards
50 adopted by regulation in accordance with chapter
51 54. A duplicate of such certificate with a copy of
52 the application attached shall be delivered to the
53 applicant and the assessor, assessors or agents
54 shall keep the third copy of such certificate and
55 a copy of the application for their records. After
56 verification of the amount of the grant the
57 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
58 shall, not later than September thirtieth of each
59 year prepare a list of certificates approved for
60 payment by him, and shall thereafter supplement
61 such list monthly. Such list and any supplements
62 thereto shall be approved for payment by the
63 Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management
64 and shall be forwarded by him to the State
65 Comptroller, not later than ninety days after
66 receipt of such applications and certificates of
67 grant from the assessor or assessors, and the
68 State Comptroller shall draw his order upon the
69 State Treasurer, not later than fifteen days
70 following, in favor of each person on such list

71 and on supplements to such list in the amount of
72 such person's claim and the Treasurer shall pay
73 such amount to such person, not later than fifteen
74 days following. Applications filed under this
75 section shall not be open for public inspection.

76 HSG COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 9 NAY 0 JFS C/R PD
77 PD COMMITTEE VOTE: YEA 19 NAY 0 JF

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"THE FOLLOWING FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND BILL ANALYSIS ARE PREPARED FOR THE BENEFIT OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, SOLELY FOR PURPOSES OF INFORMATION, SUMMARIZATION AND EXPLANATION AND DO NOT REPRESENT THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OR EITHER HOUSE THEREOF FOR ANY PURPOSE."

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT - BILL NUMBER sSB 395

STATE IMPACT None

MUNICIPAL IMPACT None, see explanation below

STATE AGENCY(S) Office of Policy and Management

EXPLANATION OF ESTIMATES:

MUNICIPAL IMPACT: It is anticipated that the change to a rolling deadline for the Circuit Breaker program will have no fiscal impact to the municipalities that must administer the program. However, the rolling deadline will change the workload of the assessor's offices and social service agencies currently processing the applications and may necessitate a reallocation of resources.

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OLR BILL ANALYSIS

sSB 395

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEADLINE FOR THE CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM

SUMMARY: This bill allows low-income elderly and disabled renters to apply to the town assessor for a circuit breaker tax grant at any time during the year, instead of just between May 15 and September 15. It also eliminates the process a renter has to follow to obtain extra time to file an application if they are too ill or incapacitated to apply during that time.

By law, the town assessor must submit the applications

to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) which verifies and processes them and submits a list of approved grants to the comptroller for payment. OPM must approve each year's grants by September 30 and update the list of approved grants monthly. A qualified renter receives a grant equal to 35% of the sum of all charges for rent, electricity, gas, water, and fuel he paid during the previous year, less 5% of his income up to a maximum grant amount based on income.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 1998

COMMITTEE ACTION

Select Committee on Housing

Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference
Yea 9 Nay 0

Planning and Development Committee

Joint Favorable Report
Yea 19 Nay 0